

merits: eucalyptus hardwood (claim 3); wound dressings as an absorbent article (claim 13); wood pulp as content of a storage layer (claims 30 and 36); and synthetic fibers as content of an acquisition layer (claims 30 and 36). Applicants make these elections of species to be fully responsive to the species election requirement.

Pursuant to MPEP section 809.02(a) upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. Accordingly, Applicants submit that upon allowance of the generic claims, all the remaining non-elected claims must be considered.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: January 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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